



County Board Finance & Audit Committee

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, Chair
Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr.
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.

Supervisor Lynne De Bruin, Vice-Chair
Supervisor James “Luigi” Schmitt
Supervisor Peggy A. Romo West

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COUNTY BOARD 2012 BUDGET BLAST: OCTOBER 24, 2011

Milwaukee, WI – The Milwaukee County Board’s Finance & Audit Committee is holding a series of public meetings throughout October on the [County Executive’s 2012 Recommended Budget](#). Each day, the Committee reviews a number of specific departments and items in the budget.

Today, the Committee approved the following amendments:

Milwaukee County Transit/Paratransit System

- Amendment approved 6-0 to conduct an audit of the Milwaukee County Paratransit program to focus on fraud prevention and quality of service issues as well as any other concerns identified in the courthouse of the audit.
- Amendment approved 5-1 (No: Schmitt) to increase Paratransit fares by \$0.75 rather than the \$1.25 recommended by the County Executive.
- Amendment approved 4-2 (No: Mayo, Schmitt) to have the Office of the Sheriff administer the current contract with G4S Wackenhut for security on transit buses and the \$920,000 appropriation for these services is budgeted in the Office of the Sheriff. The Sheriff is requested to manage transit security services and recommend changes to improve effectiveness.
- Amendment approved 6-0 to include, beginning in June 2012, driver safety shield installation on all new Milwaukee County Transit System bus purchase specifications. Milwaukee County shall seek grant funding for the installation of safety shields for existing transit fleet vehicles.
- Amendment approved 5-1 (No: Thomas) to continue a pilot program for designated stroller areas on transit buses. Additionally, MCTS will work with the Office of the Sheriff to enforce Chapter 63, in that no non-service animals or specified weapons are allowed on any transit fleet vehicles in order to maximize passenger/driver safety.

DAS – Facilities Management

- Amendment approved 6-0 to work with the Department of Audit to develop a method of collecting data on racial and gender breakdowns of all contractor employees working on Milwaukee County construction or maintenance projects.
- Amendment approved 3-2 (No: De Bruin, Schmitt) to employ County security employees at secure designated security facilities, with the cost partially offset with the elimination of the current security contract.
- Amendment approved 5-0 (Excused: Mayo) to eliminate the contribution to the debt service reserve, conduct a countywide comprehensive facilities plan, and increase the Appropriation for Contingencies.

Federated Library System

- Amendment approved 4-2 (No: Schmitt, Thomas) to restore the County's 2012 tax levy contribution of \$66,650 to the Federated Library System.

Parks

- Amendment approved 6-0 to form a Workgroup to enter into discussions with the Hunger Task Force on the specifics of a lease arrangement that is beneficial to both parties. The proposed lease shall address all components of operating the farm and fish hatchery including, but not limited to, staffing, land utilization, commodity distribution and building maintenance and repair.
- Amendment approved 5-1 (No: Thomas) to increase seasonal parks staff hours from 366,683 to 411,446.
- Amendment approved 4-2 (No: Schmitt, Thomas) to deny the abolishment of 15 FTE Park Maintenance Worker in Charge positions and create 15 FTE Parks/Highway Maintenance Workers.

The Committee will continue its review of budgets and consideration of amendments throughout October in Room 203-R of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

[Click here to access the updated 2012 budget meeting schedule](#)

[Click here to listen to live audio from the meetings](#) (available while meetings are in progress)

[Click here to access the Budget Overview presented by County Board Staff](#)

The County Board of Supervisors, under the leadership of Chairman Lee Holloway, will adopt the 2012 Budget on Monday, November 7 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse.

The County Board's annual Public Hearing on the 2012 Budget is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 31 at the Washington Park Senior Center, located at 4420 W. Vliet Street in Milwaukee.

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